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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/438,247	11/12/1999	JUNJI NISHIGAKI	15162/01290	9067

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EXAMINER

KASSA, YOSEF

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/438,247

Applicant(s)

NISHIGAKI ET AL.

Examiner

YOSEF KASSA

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 November 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1- 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi (U.S. Patent 5,448,655).

With regard to claim 1, Yamaguchi discloses a plurality of processors processing input image data in parallel with each other and outputting respective processed image data (see col. 1, lines 56-col. 2, lines 1-5); an address memory storing address information for each respective image data while being processed by each of plurality of processors (see col. 2, lines 18-30 and col. 3, lines 33-68).

With regard to claim 2, Yamaguchi discloses an image memory storing image data output from plurality of processors (see col. 2, lines 49-57), and read means reading image data from image memory on the basis of address information stored in address memory (col. 2, lines 24-27).

With regard to claim 3, Yamaguchi discloses an image memory storing image data output from plurality of processors along the sequence of addresses on the basis of address information stored in address memory (see col. 3, lines 30-42).

With regard to claim 4, Yamaguchi discloses input means inputting image data subjected to processing in synchronization with a first external device (see col. 3, lines 12-16), and output means outputting image data processed in plurality of processors and address information stored in address memory in synchronization with a second external device (see col. 3, lines 17-29).

With regard to claim 5, Yamaguchi discloses plurality of processors also output arrangement information corresponding to processed data when outputting data (see col. 2, lines 358-65).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi (5,448,655), and further in view of Hino et al (5,117,468).

With regard to claim 6, Yamaguchi discloses a plurality of processors performing prescribed processing on a plurality of data divided from single image data respectively and first memory storing arrangement information on original image data for said

Art Unit: 2625

plurality of divided data (see col. 3, lines 30-42); lines a controller restoring a single image from plurality of data processed in plurality of processors in accordance with arrangement information (see col. 3, lines 43-col. 4, lines 1-13).

Yamaguchi does not explicitly call for restoring a single image from plurality of data. However, Hino et al (see col. 3, lines 15-27) teaches this feature. Hino et al and Yamaguchi are combinable because they from the same field of endeavor, that is, extracting image processing (see abstract or Hino et al). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to incorporate the teaching of Hino et al extracted image processing system into Yamaguchi system. The motivation for doing so is to combining a plurality of pixels from an image extracting circuits to reconstruct and modify a plurality of images, and transferring the modified pixel data to an image memory.

With regard to claim 7, Yamaguchi discloses including a second memory storing data processed in plurality of processors, wherein controller reacts data from second memory in sequence along arrangement information and restores image (see col. 4, lines 1-13).

Claims 8 and 9 are similarly analyzed as claim 7.

With regard to claim 10, Yamaguchi discloses plurality of processors also output arrangement information corresponding to processed data when outputting data (see col. 4, lines 14-30).

Claim 11 is similarly analyzed as claim 6. As to the additional limitation of storing address information indicating arrangement of divided image data (see col. 3, lines 30-42 of Yamaguchi).

Other Prior Art Cited

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent No. (6,259,459) Middleton discloses apparatus and method for image data processing of pixel data in raster lines.

US Patent No. (5,146,592) Pfeiffer et al discloses high speed image processing computer with overlapping windows-DIV.

US Patent No. (5,007,005) Hatakeyama et al discloses data processing system.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YOSEF KASSA whose telephone number is (703) 306-5918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BHAVESH MEHTA can be reached on (703) 308-5246. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314 for regular communication and (703) 872-9314 for after Final communications.

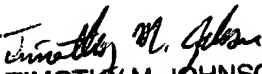
Art Unit: 2625

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the customer service office whose telephone number is (703) 306-5631. The group receptionist number for TC 2600 is (703) 305-4700.

PATENT EXAMINER

Yosef Kassa

01/16/04.


TIMOTHY M. JOHNSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER